

EXHIBIT A

Docket No. DN2000251Serial No. 10/021,200Filed December 7, 2001

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, WE, Howard Allen Colvin and Sun Lin Chen, of 1151 Summerhill Drive, Akron, Ohio 44333 and 2712 Sun Valley Circle, Akron, Ohio 44333, respectively, have invented certain improvements in **REINFORCED SILICA/ELASTOMER COMPOSITE**, and described in a patent application executed the 3rd + 12th day of October, 2001, by the undersigned for filing in The United States of America, being owners of all right, title and interest in and to said application and in and to any invention described therein and having full right to convey the entire interest both legal and equitable herein assigned; and

WHEREAS, THE GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY, of Akron, Ohio 44316, a corporation of the State of Ohio (assignee) is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title and interest in and to said application and said invention described therein and any and all patents to be obtained therefor, all as hereinafter set forth:

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of good and valuable consideration received by the undersigned, the undersigned do hereby sell, assign, transfer and set over unto said assignee, its successors and assigns, the entire right, title and interest in and to said invention or inventions, as described in the aforesaid application, in any form or embodiment thereof, and in and to the aforesaid application; and in and to any application filed in any foreign country based thereon, including the right to file said foreign applications under the provisions of the International Convention; also the entire right, title and interest in and to any and all patents or reissues or extensions thereof to be obtained in this or any foreign country upon said invention or inventions and any divisional, continuation, continuation-in-part or substitute applications which may be filed upon said invention or inventions in this or any foreign country; and the undersigned hereby authorizes and requests the issuing authority to issue any and all patents on said application or applications to said assignee or its successors and assigns.

The undersigned further agrees to execute all divisional, continuing, substitute, improvement, extension, reissue and other patent applications in this or any foreign country relating to said application or invention and to sign all other lawful papers and to perform all other lawful acts without further consideration, but without expense to ourselves, which the assignee may deem necessary or desirable to make this Assignment fully effective including by way of example, but not of limitation, the following acts:

- (1) Prompt execution of all lawful oaths, affidavits and/or supplemental oaths required or deemed advisable by the assignee to further the prosecution of any application or applications for letters patent relating to the subject matter of this Assignment;
- (2) To cooperate to the best of our ability in the execution of all lawful documents, the production of evidence, and the giving of testimony in interference, opposition, nullification or infringement proceedings involving the said invention or improvement, applications or patents or any of them.

The undersigned hereby authorizes said assignee to insert in this Assignment the serial number and filing date of the above-identified application when known.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have hereunto set their hands and seal on the date(s) set after their signatures.

Linda C. Burns (L.S.) Howard Allen Colvin Oct 17 2001
WITNESS Howard Allen Colvin

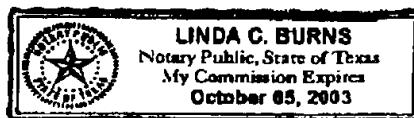
Lori J. Gould (L.S.) Sun-Li Chen 10/3 2001
WITNESS Sun Lin Chen

State of Texas)
County of Tarrant) SS:

On this 17th day of October, 2001, before me personally appeared Howard Allen Colvin, to me personally known, and known to me to be the person who signed the foregoing assignment, and acknowledge the signing of same as his free act and deed.

Linda C. Burns

Notary Public



Docket No. DN2000251

State of Ohio)

County of Summit)

SS:

On this 3rd day of October, 2001, before me personally appeared Sun Lin Chen, to me personally known, and known to me to be the person who signed the foregoing assignment, and acknowledge the signing of same as his free act and deed.

Lois J. Gould

Notary Public

LOIS J. GOULD, Notary Public
Residence - Summit County
State Wide Jurisdiction, Ohio
My Commission Expires Oct 27, 2001